

March 11, 1975

PRESIDENT: The question is the advancement of LB 150A. Record your vote. 157A. Record Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: The bill is so advanced.

Senator Marvel has asked unanimous consent to lay over 588. Is there any objection? Seeing none it is so ordered.

We'll now consider LR 20.

CLERK: Mr. President, Legislative Resolution 792. "Whereas it has been a desirable and valued practice to begin each legislative day with a prayer, and whereas these devotions provide inspiration and guidance for each member of the Legislature, and whereas the wisdom contained in these devotions would be more readily preserved if selected examples of the prayers were assembled in book form, now therefore be it resolved by the members of the 84th Legislature, First Session: 1) that the Chaplain be authorized to select and assemble those prayers most likely to embody the spiritual tenure of legislative devotions; 2) that the Clerk of the Legislature be directed to cause to be printed in book form and distributed the prayers so assembled by the Chaplain". This is by Senator Duis, I think.

PRESIDENT: Senator Duis.

SENATOR DUIS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, for the number of years that I have been here recently Dr. Palmer, our Chaplain, has been of a great inspiration to me and, I'm sure, to most all of us. His prayers, without a doubt, at the beginning of each day might be able to give some thought to us. I introduced this resolution and I think it's only fitting that we honor this gentleman for his good work and that we assemble these prayers to his liking; not too many of them, I'm sure he'll be reasonable. Have the Clerk put them in book form so they can be distributed and we might be able to use them at another time and have them for our records and posterity. The legislators may be able to share, if they so desire, in having the book.

PRESIDENT: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, as you all know there is to be a very sharp cleavage between church and state, all churches and the state. It's one thing to say that an individual senator, who likes a prayer, would collect them from the Journal. It's another thing to say that the Legislature will take the initiative and the state will assemble prayers and put them in book form for distribution. I think the state should have nothing to do with the dissemination of anybody's religious beliefs, no matter how objective the person tries to be in the presentation of his or her's religious views. As it is, every morning there is a minister who represents a certain aspect of religion who prays to the body. Those who believe in prayer do not see this as an infliction. Those who do not believe in prayer have to excuse themselves when this particular ceremony occurs every morning. I think it would be appropriate, if they are going to have a prayer, to do it before the Legislature's called into order. Then it is a private, devotional service, such as they talk about having in the public schools. I do not think that because one individual believes very strongly in a certain point of view, or a number of individuals believe in that point of view, when it relates to religion it ought not be before the Legislature, it ought not be in the Legislature. I am not going to try to